

NEWS RELEASE



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Anniston receives nearly \$1 million in grants for FY 2015 trail projects

The City of Anniston is the proud recipient of almost \$1 million in grants for local biking, hiking, and walking trails.

Gov. Robert Bentley has awarded \$200,000 in grants for Chief Ladiga and Coldwater Mountain trail extensions, according to an announcement made by Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs.

Of that amount, \$100,000 has been awarded for a nearly three-quarter-mile paved extension to Chief Ladiga Trail.

The 10-foot-wide trail extension will run from U.S. Highway 21 at Baltzell Gate Road to Glade Road, and when combined with the Silver Comet Trail that stops just outside of Atlanta, Ga., would bring the total length of the two adjoining paved trails to almost 100 miles.

The other \$100,000 was awarded by Bentley for a six-mile extension to Coldwater Mountain's existing 25-mile-long trail system.

This trail extension will be developed on property that is a part of Alabama's Forever Wild Program for not only trained and skilled mountain bikers, but for beginning bikers and day hikers as well.

"Anniston and the surrounding area have during the past few years become a destination for bicyclists," Bentley said. "I am tremendously proud of both trail systems and what they have come to mean for recreation in Alabama."

The Calhoun Metropolitan Planning Organization has also voted to allocate \$202,000 to the City of Anniston through its Transportation Improvement Program.

Funds are set to go towards primary engineering work at Chief Ladiga Trail that will allow for the future right-of-way acquisition of abandoned rail beds and the continued development of the trail.

The city was previously awarded \$250,000 in transportation funds for property acquisition for the Chief Ladiga Trail and approximately \$300,000 for implementation of the city's ["Anniston Area Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Integration"](#) plan for the 2015 fiscal year.

"This nearly million dollar investment in walking and cycling will boost economic growth and promote healthy lifestyles in Anniston," said Mayor Vaughn Stewart. "Study after study demonstrates that bike lanes and trails enhance real estate values, lure talented workers to a community, increase retail sales and strengthen minds and bodies."

The City of Anniston

Located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in northeast Alabama, Anniston sits as the county seat for Calhoun County and a regional hub for legal, medical, and banking services. Home to the bronze-level mountain bike ride center of Coldwater Mountain, Anniston offers a wide range of recreational options such as biking the Chief Ladiga Trail or visiting the Anniston Museum of Natural History. For more information about the City of Anniston, visit anniston.al.gov.